

**Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.** 

June 2013

Volume 9, Number 6

# **BOARD MESSAGE**

Many thanks to our Garage Sale chairperson, Joany Price, for helping residents get organized for another successful annual sale on May 4. The weather was definitely on our side this year with pleasant temperatures and a good breeze.

Mark your calendars now for the Courtyard's annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic set for Thursday, July 4. It isn't too early to start thinking of how to decorate your bike, wagon, car, or stroller, and, of course, yourself, for the Parade. These events don't happen without a lot of hard work and organization by community volunteers. Please contact Joany Price, our Social Committee Chairperson, if you would like to help out. It's a great way to meet and enjoy your neighbors. Check out the notice in our monthly *Caller* and the website for more details. Watch for signs as the time gets closer.

As we head into the long hot summer months, we are still in Stage 2 drought conditions. Please keep in mind the City's mandatory residential watering rules from last September remain in effect. These rules determine watering days by street address. For automatic irrigation systems: odd numbered residences water before 5 a.m. or after 7 p.m. on Wednesdays; even numbered addresses on Thursday. Please keep an eye on your sprinklers so they work properly and keep the water on the landscape that needs it – not the street or sidewalk. If you see a broken sprinkler or pipe while out driving or walking in the neighborhood, please take a minute to let the owner know to help avoid wasting of a very precious resource.

If you have further questions, contact the City or check out their website Watering rules can be found at www.ci.austin. tx.us/watercon/scheduefaq.htm.

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer and please continue to drive slowly in the Courtyard!

# Celebrate The Fourth Of July In The Courtyard

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2013 PARADE AT 10:15 AM

Join us at 10:00 am at Parade Ridge and Courtyard Drive

We will line up behind the Fire Truck and march to the Park

Decorate your bike or wagon and join in the fun

Grab a kazoo and march in the one and only Courtyard Marching Kazoo Band

Add balloons to the stroller and walk with the Stroller Brigade

#### Picnic In The Park!

Wear your bathing suits for the

# SLIP & SLIDE

Don't miss the clown, face painting, balloon animals, and the Moonwalk

Enjoy hot dogs, lemonade, chips & watermelon

#### YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!!!!

Parade Route: Starts at Parade Ridge and Courtyard Drive then proceeds to Scout Island Circle South. Turns left on Tom Wooten then right on Scout Island Circle North and on to the Park.

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# Park Gate Code Change

A new Park gate code will become effective beginning Monday, June 3rd. To save on mailing costs, we sent the new code in May to residents via the broadcast email system. This means that the new code should have gone to everyone for whom we have email addresses. If you did not receive an email from us with the new gate code last month, it is either because we do not have your current email address or were not given one. In this case, you may contact any Board member or email our property manager, Marilyn Childress marilyn. childress@goodwintx.com, and simply let them know. If you provide an email address, the code will be sent to your email address as soon as possible. If you do not have email or simply do not wish to share your email address, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Marilyn Childress, or a Board member and the code will be mailed to you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Courtyard Homeowners' Association Board of Directors



# **Courtyard Book Club**

Tuesday, July 2th
1 p.m. in the Courtyard Club

The book for discussion in July is the 2010 Pulitzer Prize winning title, The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt, by T.J. Stiles. Vanderbilt was one of the richest persons in American History. At his death in 1877, he possessed almost one tenth of the American currency in circulation. Unlike some other fortunes of the age, he did not inherit his money. He left school at age 11 and used his father's small boat to ferry cargo in the waters off Staten Island. As a self-taught entrepreneur, he often slept in his boat in order to be the first person at the dock for cargo that arrived the next morning. Vanderbilt was one of the first Americans to learn to build and captain steam boats. He competed fiercely, ultimately gaining a monopoly on steam ship traffic on the lucrative route between New York and Boston. With the coming of the Gold Rush, he found a route through Nicaragua to ferry people and mail to and from the west coast. During the Civil War, he loaned the Union Navy his fastest ship to help stop Confederate raiders. Once the war was over, he turned his sights to rail travel and soon controlled the routes between New York and Chicago.

While there is no contest that Cornelius Vanderbilt was a wizard capitalist; criticism of his business ethics and calculating tactics is also part of the record he left. In a rare act of charity, he funded Vanderbilt University. By doing this, he hoped to build a Southern leadership elite that would aid in uniting the country once again. Reviewers praise the author, T.J. Stiles' writing style and his careful scholarship.

The book selection for August is *Thinking Fast; Thinking Slow* by Daniel Kahneman. In this international best seller, the author examines the trustworthiness of our intuition and offers insight into how we make choices in our personal and business lives.

For information about the Courtyard Book Club, contact Jean Heath, c.jeanheath@gmail.com or 512-231-9412.



# **Volunteers for Fire Safety Committee Needed**

Volunteers are needed to establish a Fire Safety Committee for the Courtyard neighborhood. **It is clear that the threat of a wildfire in our area is very real.** The Courtyard is one of the particularly high-risk neighborhoods for a wildfire because the homes in this area are surrounded by large amounts of brush and because we have limited access in and out of the neighborhood.

The work of the Committee will be to put together a fire safety plan for the Courtyard neighborhood at large. As a consequence of the City of Austin's efforts in this area, some monies could potentially be available to assist in doing necessary work to make our common areas less susceptible to wildfires. Additionally, the Committee will encourage and assist residents to complete the same for their personal home and property. Jim Gattis, who was responsible for bringing us the fire safety talk last summer, has graciously volunteered to be our first chairman.

Please contact Jim Gattis (512-468-2266 or jim.gattis@ymail.com if you have questions and/or can help in any way!

# **Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

Michal Hubbard, Coordinator Fire Citizens Advisory Panel, Inc. P. O. Box 222, Bastrop, Texas 78602 512-237-2160; 512-517-1416 (c)

Travis County and the City of Austin are partnering to produce a countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Plan will aid all area cities and communities to understand their wildfire risk situation, and will provide guidance for reducing wildfire threat and averting potential catastrophic fires.

We need your help to identify:

- 1. Local issues related to wildland fire risk
- 2. Local assets requiring protection
- 3. Priorities from the identified issues and assets

A series of three meetings will be held in five areas of the County over the next several weeks. To obtain the most impact from your contributions, you are encouraged to attend all three of the meetings at the location of your choice. The meetings are scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Travis County East Service Center

(6011 Blue Bluff Road, Austin) May 14, 15, 16

700 Lavaca Building-Austin

(First-floor multifunction rooms) May 20, 22, 23

(Continued on Page 4)

## COURTYARD CALLER

(Continued from Page 3)

#### **Travis County West Service Center**

(4501 RR 620 North, Austin) May 28, 29, 30

#### Pflugerville Fire Department

(2003-B East Pecan Street, Pflugerville) June 4, 5, 6

#### North Travis County Fire & Rescue

(18300 Park Drive, Jonestown) June 11, 12, 13

All of the information acquired at these meetings will be considered in crafting the final Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which is to be completed in early September.

#### For additional information:

http://www.austintexas.gov/fullcalendar http://www.austintexas.gov/department/wildfire-division

#### City of Austin:

Jodi Vaughn-512-974-0125, jodi.vaughn@austintexas.gov **Travis County:** 

Mickey Roberts-512-854-6613, mickey.roberts@co.travis.tx.us

#### **Bowman Consulting Group:**

Michal Hubbard, michal\_firecap@yahoo.com



#### Steiner Ranch

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#### Realize the Value

**TO REALIZE** THE VALUE OF A SISTER/BROTHER... ASK SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ONE.

**TO REALIZE** THE VALUE OF TEN YEARS... ASK A NEWLY DIVORCED COUPLE.

**TO REALIZE** THE VALUE OF FOUR YEARS... **ASK A GRADUATE.** 

**TO REALIZE** THE VALUE OF ONE YEAR... ASK A STUDENT WHO HAS FAILED A FINAL EXAM.

**TO REALIZE** THE VALUE OF NINE MONTHS... ASK A MOTHER WHO GAVE BIRTH TO A STILLBORN.

TO REALIZE THE VALUE OF ONE MONTH... ASK A MOTHER WHO HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A PREMATURE BABY.

**TO REALIZE** THE VALUE OF ONE WEEK... ASK AN EDITOR OF A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

**TO REALIZE** THE VALUE OF ONE MINUTE... ASK A PERSON WHO HAS MISSED THE TRAIN, BUS OR PLANE.

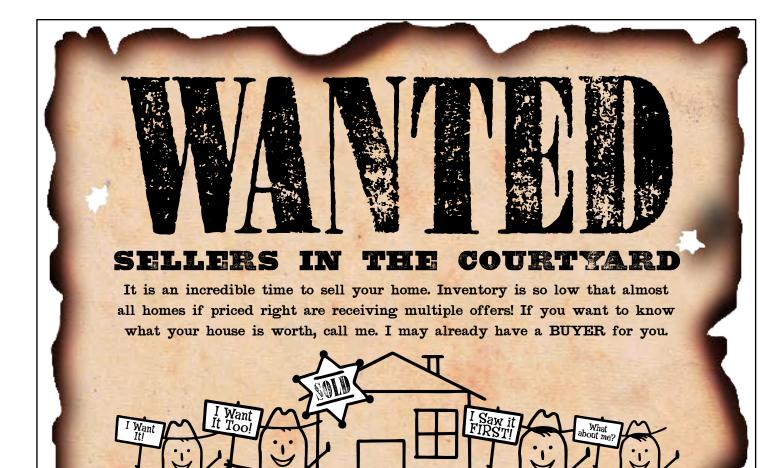
**TO REALIZE** THE VALUE OF ONE SECOND... ASK A PERSON WHO HAS SURVIVED AN ACCIDENT.

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE. TREASURE EVERY MOMENT YOU HAVE. YOU WILL TREASURE IT EVEN MORE WHEN YOU CAN SHARE IT WITH SOMEONE SPECIAL.

TO REALIZE THE VALUE OF A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER... **LOSE ONE** 

REMEMBER.... HOLD ONTIGHT TO THE ONES YOU LOVE!

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Home Prices in Area 18 are up 26.5 from 2012



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# Twinkies & Root Beer





-Author unknown-

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie.

The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?

"He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked," Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added," You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!



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## The Month of June

June is the sixth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and one of the four months with a length of 30 days. June is known for the large number of marriages that occur over the course of the month. According to one etymology, June is named after Juno (Hera). Juno was the goddess of marriage and a married couple's household, so some consider it good luck to be married in this month. According to another etymology provided by the Roman poet Ovid, June is named for the iuniores, Latin for "young people" and that the month of May is named for the maiores, Latin for "elders." In Iceland, folklore says that if you bathe naked in the morning dew on the morning of June 24, you are supposed to keep aging at bay for longer.

#### June Birthstone: Pearl, Moonstone, and Alexandrite

Unlike most gemstones that are found within the Earth, pearls have an organic origin. They are created inside the shells of certain species of oysters and clams. Some pearls are found naturally in mollusks that inhabit the sea or freshwater settings such as rivers. However, many pearls today are cultured-raised in oyster farms that sustain a thriving pearl industry. Pearls possess a uniquely delicate translucence and luster that place them among the most highly valued of gemstones. The color of the pearl depends very much on the species of mollusk that produced it, and its environment. White is perhaps the best-known and most common color. However, pearls also come in delicate shades of black, cream, gray, blue, yellow, lavender, green, and mauve. Black pearls can be found in the Gulf of Mexico and waters off some islands in the Pacific Ocean. The Persian Gulf and Sri Lanka are well known for exquisite cream-colored pearls called Orientals. Other localities for natural seawater pearls include the waters off the Celebes in Indonesia, the Gulf of California, and the Pacific coast of Mexico. The Mississippi River and forest streams of Bavaria, Germany, contain pearl-producing freshwater mussels. Pearls, according to South Asian mythology, were dewdrops from heaven that fell into the sea. They were caught by shellfish under the first rays of the rising sun, during a period of full moon. In India, warriors encrusted their swords with pearls to symbolize the tears and sorrow that a sword brings. Pearls were also widely used as medicine in Europe until the 17th century. Arabs and Persians believed it was a cure for various kinds of diseases, including insanity. Pearls have also been used as medicine as early as 2000 BC in China, where they were believed to represent wealth, power and longevity. Even to this day, lowest-grade pearls are ground for use as medicine in Asia.

June's second birthstone is the moonstone. Moonstones are believed to be named for the bluish white spots within them, that when held up to light project a silvery play of color very much like moonlight. When the stone is moved back and forth, the brilliant silvery rays appear to move about, like moonbeams playing over water. This gemstone belongs to the family of minerals called feldspars, an important group of silicate minerals commonly formed in rocks. About half the Earth's crust is composed of feldspar. This mineral occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks, and also

constitutes a large percentage of soils and marine clays. The best moonstones are from Sri Lanka. They are also found in the Alps, Madagascar, Myanmar (Burma), and India. In India, the moonstone is considered a sacred stone and often displayed on a yellow cloth – yellow being considered a sacred color. The stone is believed to bring good fortune, brought on by a spirit that lives within the stone.

June's third birthstone is the alexandrite. Alexandrite possesses an enchanting chameleon-like personality. In daylight, it appears as a beautiful green, sometimes with a bluish cast or a brownish tint. However, under artificial lighting, the stone turns reddish-violet or violet. Alexandrite is an uncommon stone, and therefore very expensive. Sri Lanka is the main source of alexandrite today, and the stones have also been found in Brazil, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Myanmar (Burma). The stone is named after Prince Alexander of Russia, who was to become Czar Alexander II in 1855. Discovered in 1839 on the prince's birthday, alexandrite was found in an emerald mine in the Ural Mountains of Russia. Because it is a relatively recent discovery, there has been little time for myth and superstition to build around this unusual stone. In Russia, the stone was also popular because it reflected the Russian national colors, green and red, and was believed to bring good luck.

#### June Birth Flower: Rose and Honeysuckle

One of the most popular flowers, the rose, is also the flower for those born in June. The rose is a flowering shrub with more than 100 species that bloom in different sizes and colors, and all of which have different meanings. The most common colors are red, pink, yellow and white, however you can find them in various other colors as well including orange, peach, purple and black. All species of the Rosa come from the northern hemisphere, and normally form as shrubs or bushes with flowers. There are, however, some that are considered trailing plants or climbers that will grow up walls and over other plants.

#### Color Meanings of the Rose:

- Red: love
- Pink: grace, lesser feelings of love
- Dark Pink: gratitude
- Light Pink: admiration, sympathy
- White: innocence, purity, secrecy, friendship, reverence and humility
- Yellow: Yellow roses generally mean dying love or platonic love. In German-speaking countries, however, they can mean jealousy and infidelity
  - Yellow with red tips: friendship, falling in love
  - Orange: passion
  - Burgundy: beauty
  - Blue: mystery
  - Green: calm
  - Black: slavish devotion (as a true black rose is impossible to produce)
  - Purple: protection (paternal/maternal love)

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

The other June flower is honeysuckle, which is a string symbol for the everlasting bonds of love. The honeysuckle is a shrub or vine that is found in the Northern Hemisphere. There are about 180 species of honeysuckle, most of which can be found in China which boasts to have 100 species alone. Europe and North American only have about 20 species each. Many have bell shaped flowers that contain a sweet, edible nectar. They contain a small red, blue or blackberry which is normally mildly poisonous. Two of the honeysuckle species are used for medicinal purposes. The Fly Honeysuckle is a common homeopathic remedy, used for asthma, breathing difficulties and syphilis. The European honeysuckle is an uncommon homeopathic remedy, used for irritability with violent outburst.

#### June Fruits and Veggies:

Apricots, beets, blueberries, cherries, corn, green beans, kiwi, peaches, peas, nectarines, strawberries, watermelon, yellow squash

#### June Holidays:

Dairy Month, Great Outdoors Month, National Adopt-A-Cat Month, National Drive Safe Month, National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month, National Iced Tea Month, National Rose Month, National Safety Month, National Tennis Month, Zoo and Aquarium Month

> Friday, June 14, 2013 Flag Day Sunday, June 16, 2013 Father's Day Tuesday, June 18, 2013 International Picnic Day Friday, June 21, 2013 Summer Solstice





## Runner'S Knee Pain Usually Linked To Foot, Hip Problem

If running is turning into a pain in the knees, it might actually be the hips that need your attention.

When runners have knee pain, it is usually related to foot or hip problems, according to Dr. Joseph Chorley, associate professor of pediatrics adolescent and sports medicine at BCM and Texas Children Hospital. If a runner is not in control at the foot, ankle or hip, the knee is what gets twisted, has to overwork and develops irritation.

Chorley makes the following suggestions:

- -Stretch properly before running
- -Don¹t increase mileage by more than 10 to 15 percent per week
- -Walk when knee pain begins
- -Replace shoes every six to nine months or every 500 miles
- -Know what your foot type is and be sure you have proper cushioning
- -Consider cross-training and strengthening exercises to help strengthen the core, glutes or hamstrings
- -Multi-vitamins are helpful for all runners and fish oil is good for long distance runners

However, there are some symptoms that may indicate a more severe problem that should be seen by a sports medicine physician:

- -Fluid accumulating in the knee
- -Painful popping or a mechanical sensation
- -Someone who had a previous structural injury such as torn ACL or PCL that  $^{\rm l}$ s now experiencing pain



## COURTYARD CALLER

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.





5 years ago this month, Colin Holst tragically and silently drowned at the age of 4. 10 Texas children have already drowned this year. Be a Water Guardian and help prevent children from drowning.

**Ongoing:** Volunteers needed to stuff and distribute water safey packets info@colinshope.org Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed! http://www.tinych.org/signup Now-June 18: Discount Schlitterbahn Tickets for sale. http://www.tinych.org/tickets

June 18: World's Largest Swim Lesson at Schlitterbahn Waterpark New Braunfels

July 1: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin 4 Miler (solo or relay) http://www.tinych.org/got2swim4 July 21: Colin's Hope Kids Got2Swim Pure Austin Quarry Lake http://www.tinych.org/got2swimkids





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